

With a new millennium in sight, excellent teachers should be our nation's most prized possessions, for it is through their efforts the quality of our leaders of tomorrow will be determined. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Deborah R. Johnson for her outstanding work as a role model and teacher.

RECOGNIZING READING
COMMUNITY CITY SCHOOLS

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Reading Community City Schools on their Celebration of Excellence, which will be held on May 20, 1998.

Reading Community City Schools have demonstrated a strong track record of academic excellence, parental involvement and community support. In fact, several Reading schools have been recognized as Blue Ribbon award winners by the State of Ohio.

In particular, Reading Central Community Elementary School has received national recognition for excellence by being named as a National Blue Ribbon School for 1996–1997. This designation—given to only 268 public and private elementary schools nationwide—is a real tribute to the faculty, staff, students and parents who have shown a great deal of dedication, leadership and hard work.

Too often, newspaper headlines are filled with stories about inadequate performance by our schools and our students. It is my hope that the achievements of Reading Community City Schools will serve as a model and will inspire other schools in our region and throughout the country to work toward new levels of academic excellence.

I commend Superintendent John Varis, Board of Education President Albert Kretschmar, the faculty, staff, parents and—most importantly—the students themselves, for their hard work and dedication that have made this Celebration of Excellence so richly deserved.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BOROUGH OF
STOCKTON

HON. MICHAEL PAPPAS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to send congratulations and best wishes to the citizens of the Borough of Stockton, New Jersey as they commemorate the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of their community. This is a day of celebration and remembrance—a time to celebrate the growth and achievements of Stockton while remembering the efforts and sacrifice of the good men and women, past and present, who helped to make the Borough what it is today.

On Saturday, May 16, 1998, the Borough will celebrate its centennial with a parade, music and a picnic. Local students will also present a time capsule during the celebration as a way of passing along a piece of Stockton's history for future generations.

The Borough was named for Richard Stockton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and member of the Continental Congress. In the years to come, I sincerely hope that Stockton will continue to build on the foundations of the past to ensure a happy and prosperous future for all its residents.

I offer my congratulations and best wishes to Mayor Gigi Celli and the Borough Council. It is my honor to have this municipality within the boundaries of my district. And it is my good fortune to be able to participate in its very special day.

H.R. 1522 SPONSOR JOEL HEFLEY
AMENDS THE NATIONAL HISTORIC
PRESERVATION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Congress has a role to play in the design, preservation, and livability of our nation's capital. The land that houses the nation's congressional offices, the Botanical Garden and several of the administrative offices is under the stewardship of the Architect of the Capitol. In the past, Congress has exempted the Architect of the Capitol from meeting the same building, design, and community notification guidelines it requires other builders in the city and nation to meet. These exemptions have not worked to the public's benefit.

In the early 1960's Congress spent over \$100 million to build the Rayburn House Office Building. It was designed by the Architect of the Capitol of the time, J. George Stewart. The building sits on 50 acres and is widely considered a waste of precious space. Only 15 percent of the building is used for hearing rooms and offices. Forty-two percent is used for parking. The appearance and design of the building since its inception has been considered architecturally void and barely functional with its hallways that end without warning.

Again, in 1997 the Architect of the Capitol, without consulting the public, demolished an historic row house built in 1890 to construct a \$2 million day care center. The location was bitterly opposed by residents and local groups. The Architect demolished the historic house and constructed a new structure with what appeared to be an act of very little coordination with the people who lived in the neighborhood. Sadly enough, today the structure is nonfunctional due to a deadly toxin which developed on site.

Fortunately, Representative JOEL HEFLEY's bill H.R. 1522 takes steps to bring the Architect of the Capitol under the same guidelines as other builders who are required to abide by the National Preservation Act. I am pleased and hopeful the mistakes of the past will not have the opportunity to be repeated due to the building guidelines in this bill and other efforts currently in process by my office. The Architect of the Capitol needs to update their services by including the public in their decision making process and by following building guidelines established by Congress.

Currently, I am working to expand the efforts put forth in H.R. 1522 with legislation that would address several areas of the operation of the Architect of the Capitol. The major ele-

ments of the bill provide for community notification, a community comment period, annual auditing of their expenditures, historical impact statements and environmental impact statements for new buildings and a separate department of recycling with public reports as to the success of the recycling program.

In addition, I would like to add that H.R. 1522 successfully addresses the codification of Executive Order 12072 and 13006. By drawing investment away from our cities, urban sprawl has been sucking the life out of our downtowns. Sprawling development leads directly to traffic congestion, decreased air quality, loss of farm and forest land, decreased water quality and the need for costly new infrastructure. As land development continues to press further and further out, many of our older suburbs have begun to deteriorate as well.

Despite the fact that Executive Order 12072 and 13006 require federal agencies to try to locate in our cities, strong evidence suggests that federal agencies continue to abandon our cities in favor of suburban locations inaccessible to urban workers and urban transportation services. I am extremely pleased to see the codification of these Executive Orders, so that our federal agencies will no longer contribute to the blight of urban sprawl.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, this could finally be the week. After a year and a half of work by members of Congress, reform groups and the general public the pressure to schedule a vote on campaign finance reform may have succeeded. This week, if the leadership keeps its word, we will begin consideration of campaign finance reform.

This debate is long overdue. I have been delivering a daily statement in the House of Representatives calling for a vote. Enough has already been said about the abuses of the system or the way that money has distorted our democratic process. It should be clear by now that the public is frustrated with the system and they want change. Now is the time to bring some control to the out of control money race that dominates our elections.

I will not stop my work until the leadership finally allows a vote on campaign finance reform on the floor of the House. We have seen promises broken in the past, but we will not let the leadership break their promise this time. The people are demanding reform and it is time for us to take action.

CONGRATULATING TYLER SELLERS
OF VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of my constituents, Tyler Sellers of Vicksburg, Mississippi, for winning a Grand Prize during the recent international poetry contests sponsored by the River of Words